March 17, 2003

TO: NITC Commissioners

FROM: Rick Becker

SUBJECT: Technical Panel Report

Since the last NITC meeting, the Technical Panel has met four times. At their December meeting, Walter Weir was again elected to serve as Chair.

 The following is a brief summary of Technical Panel activities since November:

Project Reviews
The Panel conducted technical reviews of two State Records Board grant applications; one Information Technology Infrastructure Fund project; and one Community Technology Fund project.

Public Service Commission - Distance Learning Workshop
The Panel adopted written comments to present to the PSC for their Distance Learning Workshop. The comments provide a background on the work of the NITC in this area, including: adoption of technical standards; the Nebraska Network Feasibility Study; and the creation of the Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group. The Panel's comments are posted at
http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/tp/meetings/documents/20030312/Comments_on_PSC_Investigation_20030312.pdf.

Standards and Guidelines
The Technical Panel reviewed the guideline entitled "Use of Computer-based Fax Services by State Government Agencies." The Panel recommended approval of this guideline.

Presentations and Discussions
Representatives of several projects met with the Technical Panel to share information on their projects. Topics included:
- Telehealth Network Plan
- Video-over-IP at the ESUs
- Update on H.263 Demonstrations
- Directory Services Project for State Government
- HIPAA issues and impacts

CAP

Twice monthly meetings have been held with members of the CAP committee. In addition an open general meeting was held with all interested Nebraska broadband provider's on February 13th. This meeting was followed by individual sessions with interested providers during the later part of February. All meetings were designed to make sure everyone understood what is envisioned and planned for the state of Nebraska in the area of networking. Participants included:

- Alltel
- AT&T
- Sprint
- IBM
- Dark Fiber
- Frontier
- Qwest

Presentations provided by the participants are on file at the NITC staff office.

The CAP, in concert with the University of Nebraska, developed a TINA Network Inventory database and website for keeping the statewide inventory current. The database and website will be maintained by the NITC staff.

The CAP members also reviewed the pending NETCOM RFP so that it could be distributed by March 24th. The RFP will address the replacement of the OC3 circuit between – Kearney, Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha that has to be in place by October of this year. The RFP includes an option for providers to bid on the entire Phase I Project or by segments.

Security Work Group

The Security Workgroup is developing draft guidelines for wireless security and remote access. Other topics being considered include the directory services project, secure e-mail, security standards for the state's network, and security awareness options.